

**DESERT MANAGERS GROUP HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
WORK GROUP - Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2002 - Barstow, California**

After introductions, the meeting was opened by David Anderson at 10:25 A.M.

Fourteen people were in attendance: BLM (Russell Scofield, Jim Burd, John Key, George Meckfessell, Molly Brady) DOI-DMG (John Hamil), FWS (Charles Sullivan) NPS (Dave Anderson, Gerry Wolfe), CAL-EPA (Garry Brown, CAL-EPA DTSC (Glenn Forman, George Baker), CIWMB (Wes Mindermann), San Bernardino County Solid Waste LEA (Chris Ravenstein).

Review of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived. The previous meeting's minutes are posted on DMG website: www.dmg.gov.

Guest Presentation: Wes Mindermann, Program Manager, Solid Waste Cleanup Program, CIWMB, gave a presentation describing an overview of his agency's program for cleanup of solid waste at co-disposal sites. The program is funded from a statewide surcharge on solid waste disposal and project cost recovery. There was an \$8,000,000 start up and currently there is approximately \$5,000,000 in the trust fund. The presentation discussed project prioritization, eligibility, and partnering with federal agencies, with specific mention of NPS (Rainbow Wells and Ox Wells in Mojave NP) BLM (Black Butte, Nipton, and the Route 66) sites. Wes also provided an overview the Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Program. He also mentioned proposed legislative changes that would raise funding levels and possibly add Tribal Agencies for eligibility.

Status of DMG Funding: BLM was able to carry-over funding to match the State of California's AB 2136 grant funds from last year's funds for the Nipton and Route 66 (Amboy, Chambless, and Essex) illegal disposal sites cleanup. Enough funding was available for this year to match state funding for the Crevasse (Hi Vista) illegal disposal site in Los Angeles County and to support cleanup of a number of other small illegal dump sites in Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

Initiative Reports:

1. Illegal Dumping Initiative:

a. Dump Inventory:

Russell Scofield reported that the contractor for the illegal dump database has completed the task order for data collection and fieldwork for the BLM and Mojave NP (MOJA). The data will soon be in the web database. There is the possibility that Death Valley (DEVA) and Joshua Tree (JOTR) NP's will be included in the next inventory cycle in FY 2003.

b. Prevention Plan – Education and Outreach:

Russell Scofield reported that a project partnership with the municipalities of 29 Palms and Yucca Valley is currently in the approval process in the BLM's Washington, DC office. The first products of that partnership will probably be public service announcements (PSA's) for radio and TV and development of a tri-fold brochure on illegal dumping. The municipality of Yucca Valley will produce the PSA's. The pilot program in Yucca Valley will be designed to be exportable to all of the DMG agencies. Interpretive panels for CALTrans rest areas are still in the early development stages.

c. Cleanups Planned:

More illegal dump cleanups are planned in JOTR and Palm Desert with a partnership with the BLM, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. And the Cities of Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs. A cleanup in Long Canyon is scheduled for April 13.

2. Wire Burning:

John Key reported there are a series of 8-10 new sites in Imperial County that he and Glenn Forman will be inspecting in the near future. Wire burning continues to be a statewide problem that is not being properly addressed.

Training Update:

John Key discussed upcoming training that is available to all interested parties in the coming year. Included were the EPA's Sampling for Hazardous Materials course (165.09) on April 30 – May 1 & 2, 2002 and the annual 8-hour HAZWOPER refresher training session, which is scheduled for June 27, 2002. John asked all present to keep him informed of any upcoming training events that would be of interest to the group and passed out CSTI brochures.

New Business:

Garry Brown, CAL-EPA, has been nominated for co-chair of the Work Group, replacing Dave Anderson, NPS, who is transferring to the NPS Atlanta Office.

John Key gave a short presentation on the "Dumps of the Desert III" tour, scheduled for April 1-5, 2002. The itinerary will be finalized within the next two weeks. Contact John for details.

The **DOI Conference on the Environment** is tentatively scheduled for late May in 2003. Palm Springs, Phoenix, and Denver were mentioned as possible sites.

Roundtable Discussion:

NPS - Gerry Wolfe reported that Nancy Wizner is DEVA's new Chief Ranger and DEVA has recently discovered an historic petroleum contaminated soil site during a new sewer line installation at the Cow Creek Maintenance Compound.

DMG-DOI - John Hamill reported that the next DMG meeting will be in Anza Borrego on 4/10-11. John also presented Dave Anderson with a plaque and letter from the Desert Manager's Group expressing their appreciation for his exemplary contributions to solid waste cleanup and hazardous materials in the California Desert over the last two years as co-chair of the Hazardous Materials Work Group.

BLM - Jim Burd reported on status of ongoing Molycorp cleanup efforts. He also reported that he will be transferring soon to the BLM Washington DC headquarters office.

CAL-EPA - Glenn Forman, reported that DTSC would provide XRF screening for the Imperial County wire burning sites mentioned above. George Baker, expressed concerns about the process of cleanup of Clan labs on Tribal lands. DTSC doesn't have jurisdiction and EPA moves very slowly. He reported the DTSC wishes to continue a dialog with the Work Group to help find a resolution to the problem.

NPS - Dave Anderson, reported he is transferring to the NPS Natural Resource Recovery office in Atlanta, Georgia.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for the NPS's Blackrock Visitor's Center in Yucca Valley on May 21, 2002 at 10:00 AM. Joshua Tree National Park will be the meeting's host.